

[Mr. S. Adam Sait.]

*Defalcation of Money in Treasuries other than Quilon.*

32. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): Have other cases of defalcation of Sirkar money come to the notice of the Government than the one at Quilon?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No.

*Verification of Remittances to Treasuries by Government Officers.*

33. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kun-nattur*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to mention the officers whose duty it is to check, verify and affirm the correctness of the sums received and remitted into the treasuries by—

- (i) the officers in charge of the treasuries of the State;
- (ii) the Head-Masters of schools;
- (iii) the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Excise Department;
- (iv) the Divisional Forest Officers and Range Officers of the Forest Department;
- (v) the officers of the Judicial Department;
- (vi) the Sub-Registrars;
- (vii) the officers of the Agricultural Department;
- (viii) the officers of the Anchal Department; and
- (ix) the Proverthicars of the State?

(b) How many times every year should such checking and verification be done? Is there any rule in regard to that matter?

(c) Was such work being done without fail during the past six years?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (a) (i) to (ix). The controlling officers in the respective departments.

(b) Every month the controlling officers have to verify and see that the revenue returns received by them from their departmental subordinates tally with the statements of receipts furnished to them by the Account Officer.

(c) This is being done; and when there is disagreement between the Account Officer's figures and those of departmental officers, the fact is referred to in the reviews of the Departmental Administration Reports and the reconciliation of the figures insisted on.

*Boat-Service.*

34. MR. S. ADAM SAIT (*Commerce and Industry, South*): (a) Are not the Government aware that the volume of the backwater boat-service is diminishing day by day owing to the various disabilities which the boat-owners are placed under?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to remove the disabilities to which the boat-owners are now subjected by the Canal Department and hear their grievances before introducing any new measures with a view to the exercise of better supervision and check?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) No.

(b) The Government are not aware that the boat-owners have any disabilities now. Their grievances with regard to the provisions in the new rules have been heard and the rules suitably amended.

*Grievances of Boat-Owners.*

35. MR. S. ADAM SAIT (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are the Government aware that there is much discontent among boat-owners as a result of the Government's approval of the suggestions of the "Redeemer" Committee, alleged to be intended for the safety and comfort of passengers?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 34.

*"Falacia."*

36. MR. S. ADAM SAIT (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Is it not a fact that in 1927 a boat belonging to Messrs. Darragh, Smail and Co., named "Falacia", struck a post, which was standing under water in the Kayankulam lake near Ayiramtengu?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The facts, as reported by the Chief Engineer, are as follow:—

The Division Officer, Quilon, forwarded to the Chief Engineer on the 1st August, 1922, a copy of the Kayankulam Canal Officer's report to the Sub-Division Officer, Quilon, stating that, while the Boat "Falacia" was plying in the Kayankulam lake on its journey from Quilon to Alleppey on the 29th July 1922, there was a big gale, and that, in consequence, the boat got out of control, with the result that it went off its track and dashed against a demarcation post on the eastern side of the route and the post gave way. Owing to the impact, the boat ran over the broken post and a hole was formed in the hull. Water poured in through the hole, but fortunately another boat, which was also bound for Alleppey, came to succour and took the passengers. There was no loss of life or property. The hole was temporarily patched up and the boat was removed to Ayiramtengu where it was repaired and taken on to Alleppey.

*Grants to Boat-Owners.*

37. MR. S. ADAM SAIT (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend giving any grant or compensation to boat-owners of long standing to make good